GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
SPECTRUM ALLOCATION TO CELLULAR OPERATORS
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked the Government in May, 2005 to resolve the issue concerning spectrum allocation to cellular operators by constituting a high level panel to deal with it;

(b) if so, the terms articulated by the TRAI; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. In para 3.9.3 of their recommendations on Spectrum Related Issues, the TRAI has recommended the following;

`In view of the gravity of the situation in regard to spectrum availability for various operators even in the short term of 2007 to meet the targets set by the Government for cellular telephones and at the same time the nearly insurmountable difficulties faced by Defence in vacating the spectrum in such a short time frame, we strongly recommend immediate constitution of a group at the level of Ministers of the Union Government assisted by professionals from Defence, Department of Telecom and TRAI to draw up a detailed time bound step-by-step programme and monitor its implementation . The mandate of the Group would have to include identification of alternative band, assessing and making available requisite funds and assisting users on procedural aspects of quick procurement and installation of new equipment.`

(c) The spectrum issues are very complex, necessitating in-depth analysis. Government are examining the recommendations of the TRAI, taking into account views of all stakeholders, appropriately.